

REMARKS

This application is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of prior application Serial No. 08/911,641. Applicant submits this preliminary amendment for the Examiner to consider new claims 12-14.

During prosecution of the parent application, in an Office Action dated September 13, 1999, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14 of the parent application as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,249,289 to Thamm et al. In this Amendment, Applicant has fashioned new claims 12-14 in response to the Examiner's rejection and in accordance with the Examiner's comments during the telephone interview of October 28, 1999. In the new claims, Applicant elaborates on the original step of "verifying active signal conversion status" to distinguish the present invention over the prior art of record as the Examiner recommended.

Specifically, Applicant submits that the new step of "verifying that the flight information is current before storing the flight information in the signal conversion database," as recited in claim 12, distinguishes over the prior art. Applicant further submits that the steps recited in claim 14 of "determining whether flight information has been received from a flight information file server within a predetermined period of time, and establishing communications with the flight information file server based on a determination that flight information has not being received within a predetermined period of time" further distinguish over the prior art. The recited features are supported in the specification at pages 5-6 and 82-83.

LAW OFFICES
FINNECAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
202-408-4000

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the new claims address the Examiner's concern with claims 12-14.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: William J. Brogan

William J. Brogan
Reg. No. 43,515

Dated: March 15, 2000

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
202-408-4000